

To: Durno, Mark[durno.mark@epa.gov]
From: Scott Smith
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 12:15:04 AM
Subject: This is what CNN Said

Here is what CNN said to Water Defense today:

"In addition, after you responded to CNN, we ran your answers regarding the EPA by them. Here is what they said:

EPA has been willing to meet with any organization that has data to share about Flint drinking water quality. Although, EPA has looked at data provided by Water Defense, we have never been provided with any of their sampling plans. So, EPA cannot offer a position on the validity of their approach. The grab sampling data that we've seen generally aligns with the data that EPA has collected using similar methods (as orally described by Mr. Smith). The alternative sampling approach referenced in the provided statement as the Waterbug is a new water sampling technology being used by Scott Smith and Water Defense. EPA has not seen data or scientific, peer-reviewed studies that show the validity of this methodology, so we cannot evaluate or provide opinions on the information gathered from that approach."

This is what we sent to CNN before they sent the above today:

Scott – we've revised the language and re-submitted to the reporter based on our discussion. So you are aware:

6. Speaking of Smith, you predictably tried to discredit him instead of actually providing any concrete evidence his testing is inaccurate. I have seen what Marc Edwards—an EPA-funded investigator—has said about Smith's testing--it doesn't pass the smell test. What is the specific points you have that prove Smith's Flint investigations are not valid? Considering your officials told me in August water was not an issue in East Chicago, the logic that independent testing is not comparable to the EPA's testing doesn't carry weight.

EPA uses approved scientific methods to measure contaminants. EPA and other entities have developed water testing methods which have undergone rigorous scientific peer-reviews and public comment before they were approved. EPA has reviewed samples collected by Water Defense using accepted methods, and does not question the validity of these results. However, Water Defense collected some samples via methods that have not undergone scientific review, and which cannot be compared to any current health-based or regulatory standard. EPA and Mr. Smith have a professional and productive working relationship, and have discussed this topic on a number of occasions.

Mark Durno

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Best Regards,

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